

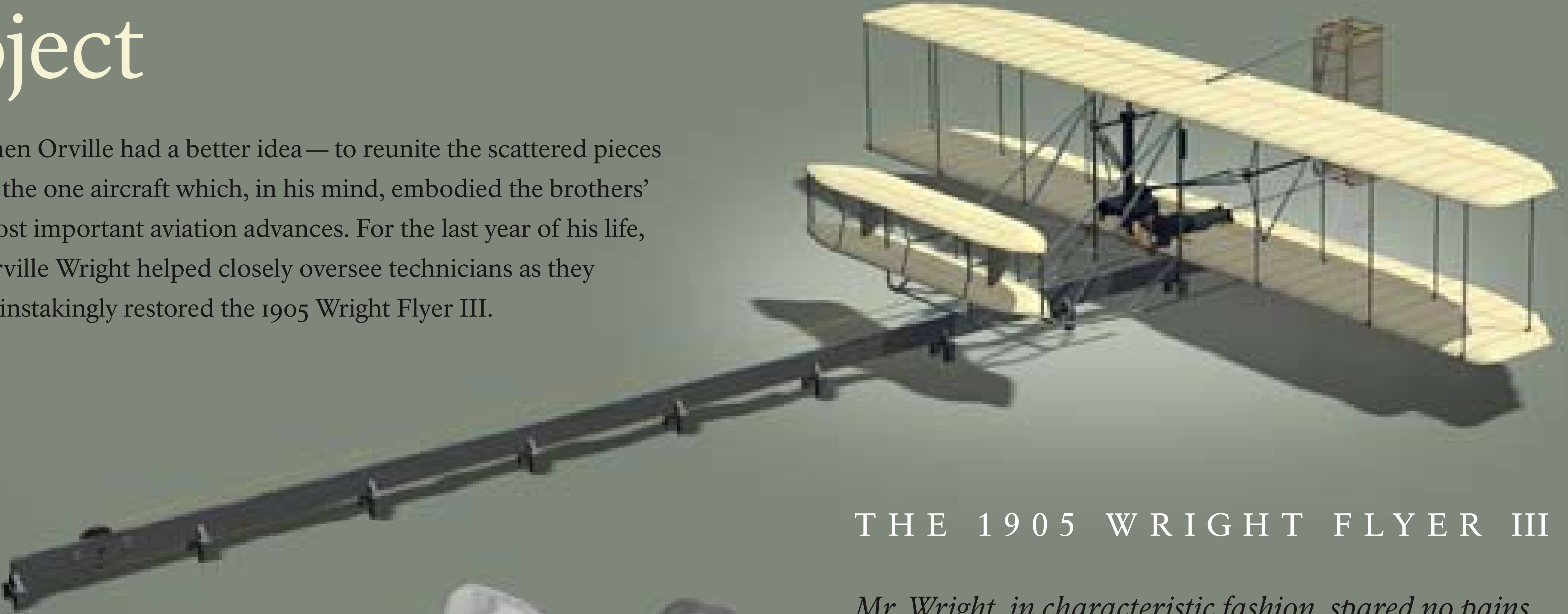


# First Pilot’s Last Project

You can see the world’s first practical airplane inside *Wright Hall*, the oldest part of the brick building just ahead. Wilbur and Orville Wright used this actual flying machine at Huffman Prairie in 1904–1905 to teach themselves how to safely turn and bank, launch, and land.

When Edward Deeds began developing the park around you to showcase transportation history in the late 1940s, he wanted a centerpiece that honored the Wright brothers. Deeds’ good friend Orville Wright first suggested building a replica of the 1903 Wright Flyer.

Then Orville had a better idea — to reunite the scattered pieces of the one aircraft which, in his mind, embodied the brothers’ most important aviation advances. For the last year of his life, Orville Wright helped closely oversee technicians as they painstakingly restored the 1905 Wright Flyer III.



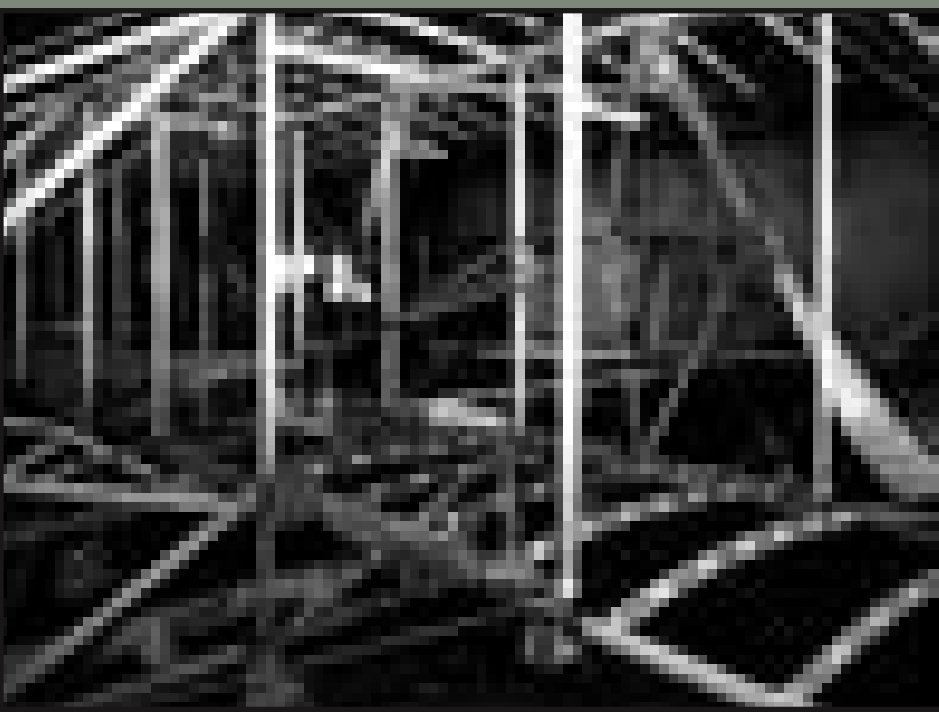
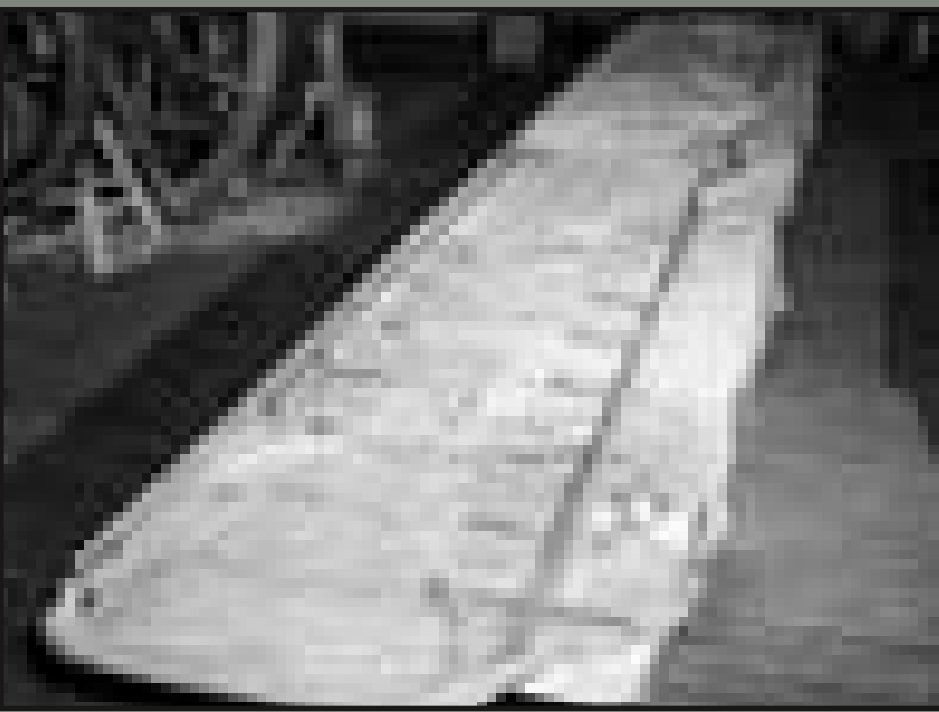
## THE 1905 WRIGHT FLYER III

*Mr. Wright, in characteristic fashion, spared no pains to insure its authenticity in every detail.*

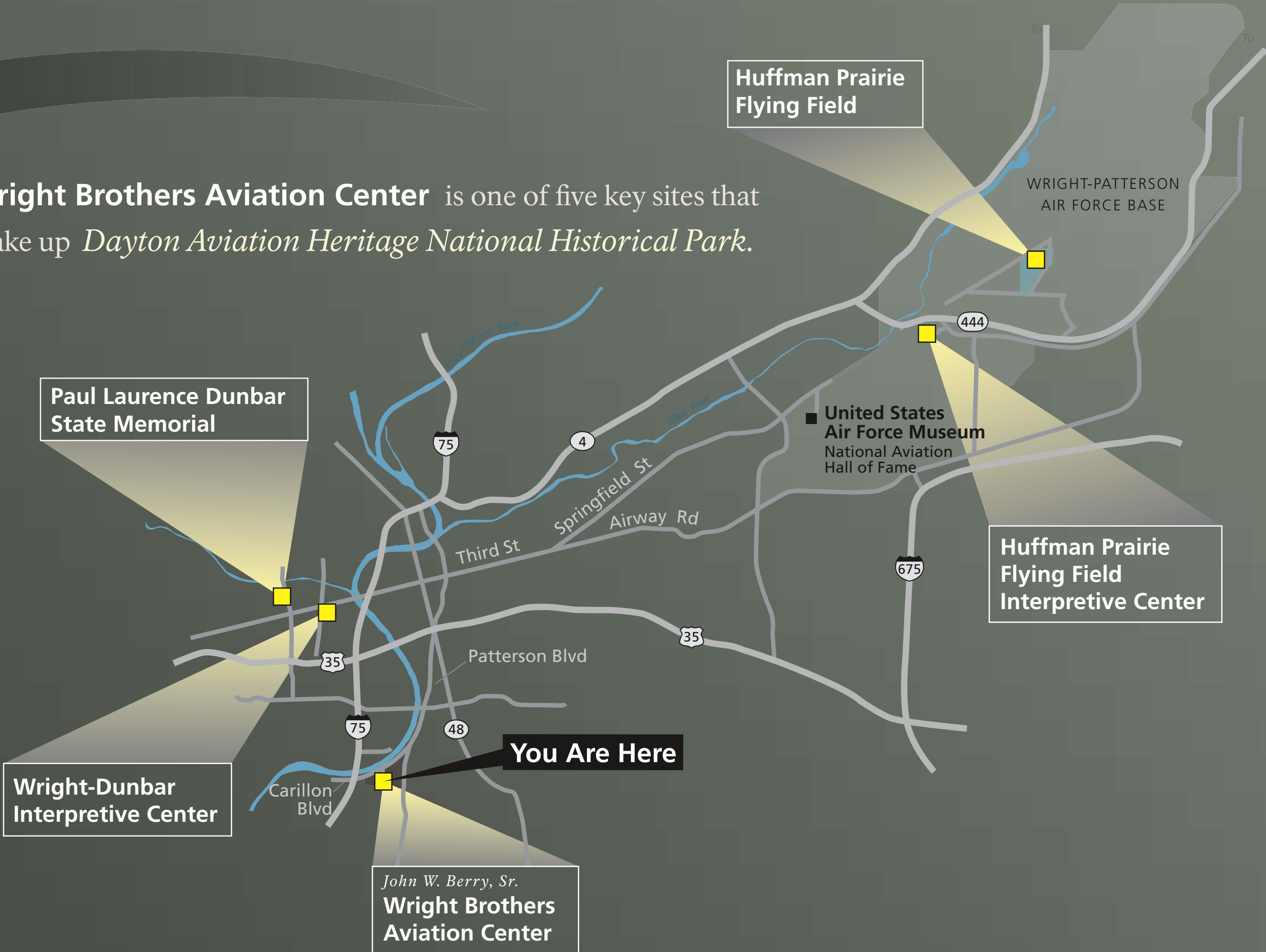
Colonel Deeds, founder of Carillon Park

The Wrights left the bulk of their 1905 Wright Flyer III at Kitty Hawk after final test flights in 1908. Wings, rudders, wood, wires, and fabric had to come back to Dayton from souvenir hunters and from the basement of a Massachusetts museum. Sprockets, chains, engine parts, and propellers were found stashed in Orville’s own West Dayton laboratory.

The two photographs at right show the 1947–1950 restoration work in progress.



**Wright Brothers Aviation Center** is one of five key sites that make up *Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park*.



Orville Wright

Colonel Edward Deeds